

# Sacred Heart Parish

South Mount Druitt

**Sunday Masses** Saturday 6.00 pm Vigil, 24<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY of the YEAR

Sunday 7.30 am & 9.00am 13/9/2020: A

**Weekday Masses** Monday Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Tuesday Our Lady of Sorrows

Wednesday 7.30 pm then Rosary Sts. Cornelius & Cyprian

Thursday 9.00 am Week 24 of Ordinary Time

Friday 9.00 am Week 24 of Ordinary Time

Saturday 9.00am Week 24 of Ordinary Time

**Confessions** Saturday 10.30 am, 12.00-1.00pm, 5.00pm-5.30pm

**Parish Priest** Father C. Ashton (Confessions after Mass: see Fr)

**Presbytery/Church** 9 Ropes Creek Rd, Old Mt. Druitt Ph: 9625-8847

**Baptisms** By arrangement - Godparents must be Catholics.

**Weddings** Six Months Notice - Marriage Preparation Course

**Exposition of Bl Sacrament** for 1/2hr after 9.00am Mass & Rosary Saturday, if enough

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading** This is one of the 'Wisdom Books' of the O.T. The other books of the O.T.

are known as Historical Books and Books of the Prophets. The Wisdom Books are

collections of sayings to guide people. This section is about anger & forgiveness. Only

those who offer forgiveness to others can expect mercy in return from others or God!

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Paul says everything we do must be in harmony with Christ. He speaks

of what must be the ultimate governing force in our lives. Is it to be ourselves or the Lord

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**Readers**

	6.00pm	7.30am	9.00am
September 20	S. FERNANDEZ	J. D'ROZARIO	H. CRUZ
25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year	J. SALAZAR	H. MUSGUN	M. WONG
September 27	M. FARQUHARSON	N. Mc KENZIE	T. MERJUDIO
26 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year	H. VILLARICA	A. WIGGINS	E. MERJUDIO

**PILGRIM STATUE of Our Lady** will be at the home of the Monteiro family 47 Wehlow St.

96755483 this week. You are welcome for a Rosary for the Parish each night at 8.00pm!

**FOR ANYONE** who may be interested or knows someone interested, Diocese has sent this:

**POSITIONS VACANT** are: A Religious Education Co-ordinator is required at:

St. Francis Xavier School, Daly River, Northern Territory (Applications close Mon. 21 Sept.)

Full Time Teacher for Years 5/6 in Mother Teresa Primary, Zuccoli, N.T. (Closes Fri. 2 Oct)

Further information: [www.ceont.catholic.edu.au/employment/current-vacancies/](http://www.ceont.catholic.edu.au/employment/current-vacancies/)

**GIVE LORD ETERNAL REST** to the souls of all the faithful departed especially Frederick &

Malcomb FARQUHARSON, Kevin SAMUELS, Andrew GOVE, Michael WONG, Jovita

ISON, Rosalina ROLE, Rose & Godfrey GUILLAUMIER, Narciso & Juana REYES, Laura

GENDY, Melva LIVERMORE, Marie McLEOD, Peter WONG, Titus DAVIDSON, Michael

CUNNINGHAM, Steven HOWELL, Paul DECOLA, Valerie MURRAY, Emma CHAMBERS,

Billy GRAHAM, Roger BANNISTER, Mavis GOPALAN, Marian & Sevin LEWIS, Jose

LLAVE, Irene & During ALFONSO, Efigenia & Alfredo FLOJO, Juan TOPANG, Neville &

Shelly MENEZES, Cyril EAKIN, Colin FITZGERALD, Henry FARES, Jay ALIPIO, Melvin

GUILLERMO, Juan & Gregoria CASTRO. Let us be united in the Kingdom of Your Glory!

## The HOLY LAND COMMISSARIAT

The Holy Land Commissary, Fr. Mario DEBATTISTA OFM has written to us all:

"For 800 years the Franciscan Friars have shared the difficult lives of Christians in the conflict torn-countries of the Middle East. Since 2011, the civil war in Syria has inflicted huge suffering and the Franciscan Friars have remained present, living and working among the local people including now refugees. It should be remembered the Franciscan Custody embraces more than Syria and includes primarily Palestine, Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Rhodes, and Cyprus. Christians face their own problems here The Friars offer pastoral care in many Parishes as well as vital charitable works. In addition there is the constant upkeep of the Holy Places of Christianity.

But 2020 is proving to be a year like no other. The COVID Pandemic has thrown up enormous challenges for the people of the Holy Land especially in health matters and the huge drop in income due to travel restrictions preventing pilgrims coming here, and the closure of all Shrines. Pilgrimages to the Holy Land are a vital resource for us, and as the Custos(guardian) of the Holy Land, Fr. Patton explains: 'Pilgrims are those who support us thanks to the offerings they leave during their journey. This allows us to carry out our mission: the care of the Holy Places that give work to local Christian people, and support to schools and social works. The absence of pilgrims and the Good Friday collections represent two major obstacles for the Custody at this time. We hope the solidarity of Christians throughout the world will not fail us now'. And the terrible explosion in Beirut has placed even more strain on our resources there!

The Good Friday's rescheduled collection for Sunday 13 Sept. is needed more than ever. The hope is that this collection will offset the closure of Churches around the world. This yearly collection is a vital contribution the whole Church is invited to support through the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land. These Arab Christians who trace their Faith back to Pentecost still walk in the footsteps of Christ and endure their own Way of the Cross.

Our solidarity is not only with the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, but also with the Latin Diocese of Jerusalem where Christ died for us on a Cross. I thank you wholeheartedly for your generous help in these very difficult circumstances!"

This day has been chosen because it is the day before the Feast of the Discovery of the True Cross by St. Helena, mother of the first Christian Emperor of Rome, Constantine, in Jerusalem in 326AD.

There is a Green Box in the centre aisle if you wish to leave an offering for the "Holy Places". It will remain there for a few weeks to give you an opportunity to do so

"The WELL" is an initiative of the Diocese. It is like a "Netflix" for Catholics. It is a free online platform for families. Topical issues are dealt with every week. You can find it on: [www.thewell.org.au](http://www.thewell.org.au)

**The CATHOLIC OUTLOOK** magazine for the Spring edition is available for you at the Church doors. It is the official newspaper of the Diocese with articles in it about all things happening in the Diocese. It is 62 pages with people, Parishes, events, and various photographs of very good quality of many personalities in the Diocese. Help yourself as you are going. They are for free!

*We Respond*

[www.majellan.media](http://www.majellan.media)

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** (or a hymn) Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** (Ps 102)

**ANTIPHON:** The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

**RESPONSE:** **The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.**

**LECTOR:** My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. **R.**

**LECTOR:** It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. **R.**

**LECTOR:** His wrath will come to an end; he will not be angry for ever. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. **R.**

**LECTOR:** For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. **R.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Alleluia, alleluia! I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** (or a hymn) How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

Or

The chalice of blessing that we bless is a communion in the blood of Christ, and the bread that we break is a sharing in the body of the Lord.

**TODAY'S READINGS** Sirach 27:30-28:7; Roman 14:7-9; Matthew 18:21-35

**NEXT WEEK** (25th Sunday of Year A) Is 55:6-9; Ps 144; Philipians 1:20-24, 27; Mt 20:1-16

*Brighten up  
your day with  
The Majellan*

### Majellan Christmas Cards

Our Christmas cards have always proved popular. Only \$7.50 per packet of 10, including postage. Don't miss out! Go on line now to order: [majellan.media/product/christmas-cards-2020/](http://majellan.media/product/christmas-cards-2020/)

Or fill in the order form in the Spring issue of *The Majellan* and post back to us at PO Box 43 Brighton Vic 3186.

# majellan

## God of Pardons

13 September 2020 24th Sunday Year A



The prophet Nehemiah (9:17) describes the Judeo-Christian deity as "a god of pardons". This expression is later picked up by other prophets (e.g. Joel 2:13), the Psalmists (86:15; 103:8-14), and even St Paul (2 Corinthians 1:3) – with good reason. Both the Ancient Israelites and the early Christians experienced the presence of God in significant events of liberation, mercy and forgiveness.

The God revealed to Moses was concerned for the plight of the Israelites enslaved in Egypt and wanted to see them liberated. The God that the Jewish prophets and mystics encountered in their prayer was one who sought to lead Israel both into and out of Exile in Babylon to cleanse them of their sins. The divine Word that the Apostles found expressed in Jesus was an offer of forgiveness to sinners.

The collective wisdom of the Biblical record is that the defining characteristics of Yahweh are mercy, compassion and forgiveness. One of the most beautiful expressions of this insight is found in Exodus 3:6-7, which describes Yahweh as "merciful and gracious, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness".

This is a key passage highlighting the fact that the concepts of mercy and forgiveness are related to that of faithfulness; that is, the faithfulness or "steadfast love" of Yahweh.

vis-a-vis his covenantal promises. The story of the Bible is one of a people who constantly fail to live up to their side of the covenant with Yahweh; but Yahweh continues to forgive them and call them back into relationship.

Of course, this doesn't mean that the people of Yahweh are free to do as they will. The parable Jesus tells in today's gospel contrasts the merciful actions of a king with the duplicity and miserliness of his servant who, despite being the recipient of royal largesse, demands immediate payment from his debtors. The king reacts by reneging on his promise of forgiveness.

The point of this story is that repentant sinners are forgiven, while the impenitent, whose lives are not transformed and who continue to act without mercy to others, are not.

This story illustrates one of the lines of Matthew's Our Father, where Jesus suggests that we pray: "forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors" (Matthew 6:12 NABRE). Similarly, in the Matthean Beatitudes, Jesus proclaims "blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy" (Matt 5:7).

The message of today's readings is that the first and best path to evangelisation is to mirror in our own lives the characteristics of our God, who has consistently been revealed to be a "god of pardons".